

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated March 15, 2006, which included a final rejection of all claims. Accordingly, this amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,172,765 (Kawamoto). Claims 1-4, 9-14 and 18-19 have been amended to more particularly point out elements of embodiments of the present invention. Claim 20 has been canceled.

The examiner cited Kawamoto as teaching all the elements of the claimed invention. However, the methods disclosed by Kawamoto are very different than the claimed embodiments of the present invention. Kawamoto teaches a method of inserting indices directly into a spool file to keep track of the quantity of objects found in a file and in each page of the file. The indices of Kawamoto keep track of object categories (i.e., character, image or rectangle), number of times each object appears, the color of each object and the size of each object (Col. 5, lines 15-45). These attributes are tracked for the whole document and for each page. The attributes are then checked to determine whether page resolution or tonality should be automatically modified before printing. If the method determines that modifications should be performed, a user may be notified and given the option of confirming the modification choice.

The indices and/or index files of Kawamoto are very distinct from the PISF index file of embodiments of the present invention. The claimed embodiments of the present invention comprise methods and systems for reading a spool data file and creating a PISF index file that

takes document-wide, persistent, job formatting data that is typically found only in a document or job header or tag located at a single location in a spool data file and organizes that document-wide data as page specific formatting data that is correlated to the applicable pages. While this distinction was implied through the description of the PISF index file, it is now made express through new claim amendments.

Kawamoto and any combination of prior art do not teach the element of an index file that reorganizes document-wide, persistent page formatting data from a spool data file into independent units corresponding to each page of a document. Accordingly, claims 1-20, as amended, are now patentable.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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